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### POSITION STATEMENT: CAST OR SPLINT APPLICATION

- 1.) It is within the scope of registered nursing practice for a qualified registered nurse to apply a cast or splint for the purpose of immobilization, support and/or protection based upon a direct order of the physician for an individual patient. The application of casts for treatment of musculoskeletal deformities and open fractures, and open and closed reduction of fractures are not within the scope of registered nursing practice.
- 2.) A registered nurse who applies a cast or splint is responsible for having adequate educational preparation and clinical experience to perform the procedures in a safe manner.
- 3.) The registered nurse should maintain documentation of educational preparation which provides for clinical practice and demonstration of competency in the performance of the procedures.

### Removal, Spreading or Splitting of a Cast

- 1.) It is within the scope of registered and licensed practical nursing practice for the nurse who is qualified in the performance of the procedure to perform the removal, splitting and/or spreading of a cast, based upon an order of the physician.
- 2.) In order to intervene in neurovascular compromise from cast compression when the physician is not available for issuance of a patient care order, a qualified nurse may split and/or spread a cast.

Nurses who apply splints or casts, or remove, spread, or split casts should:

- a) Possess specialized knowledge and competent technical skill in the performance of the procedure.
- b.) Be knowledgeable of the potential complications and adverse reactions which may result from the performance of the procedures.
- c.) Possess the knowledge and skill to recognize adverse reactions, and to take appropriate actions.
- d.) Perform the procedures in accordance with established written agency policies and procedures.